

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1, and cancelled Claims 3 and 4. Claims 1, 5-13 and 15-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanda (U.S. 5,174,034) in view of Gibbs et al. (U.S. 5,806,196), and further in view of Franklin (U.S. 5,123,768). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanda (U.S. 5,174,034) in view of Gibbs et al. (U.S. 5,806,196), and further in view of Franklin (U.S. 5,123,768) and Strickland (U.S. 6,338,203). The Examiner allowed Claims 11-13 and 15-20, and indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

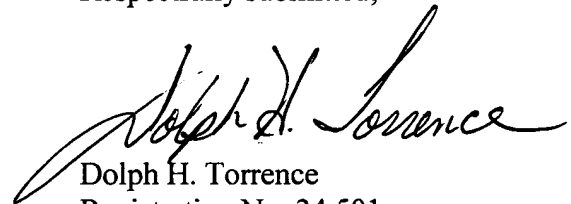
The Examiner's indication of allowed claims and allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 and intervening Claim 3. The incorporated claims have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, independent Claim 1, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 5-10 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Application No. : 10/807,448
Art Unit : 2859

Attorney Docket No. 20804.05
Confirmation No. 3355

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

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